

## **- USCGC HAMILTON - 40 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**



USCGC HAMILTON, commissioned on 18 March 1967, proudly celebrates 40 years of distinguished service to our nation, the USCG, and Humanity. The first Naval ship powered with Jet Turbines, thousands of CG Sailors have served with distinction on HAMILTON and are proud to be called “HAMBONE” Sailors. From the gun line off of Song Ong Doc Province during Operation Market Time in the Vietnam War to Alaska’s Bering Sea, from North Atlantic Ocean Stations to Counter Drug Operations in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific Ocean – HAMILTON steamed millions of miles carrying the flag and living up to her motto: Semper Primus – Always First. The current Cutter HAMILTON is the fifth cutter to bear the name of Alexander Hamilton, the founder of the Revenue Cutter Service.

HAMILTON continues to lead the way in the war on drugs and terrorism: In 2005, HAMILTON alone interdicted 15% (23.5 Tons) of the Cocaine seized by the entire Coast Guard, and again in 2006 she captured nearly 10% (11.5 Tons) of all the Cocaine seized Coast Guard wide. HAMILTON’s Cocaine interdictions for 2007, already total 10% (6.4 Tons) of the Cocaine seized by the Coast Guard so far this year. Combined, HAMILTON kept and estimated \$1.1 Billion worth of Cocaine from reaching the shores of the US.

In 2005, the White House awarded HAMILTON the prestigious Office of National Drug Control Policy Director's Award, and the CG Foundations presented HAMILTON with PACAREA's coveted and highly praised Admiral John B. Hayes award for Operational Excellence in 2005. PACAREA presented HAMILTON with the Coast Guard Unit Commendation in 2006, her fourth. Other recognition included the Highly Competitive PACAREA Gunnery Award (2006), and Gunnery Award Runner Up (2005). HAMILTON was named runner up for Galley of the Year in 2006 as well. HAMILTON led the way in quality of life initiatives that extended well beyond the lifelines and had immediate fleet wide impact. Effectively documenting the extremely high cost of provisions in the Eastern Pacific, HAMILTON's input resulted in a 20% service wide increase in the basic daily food allowance for all cutters deployed to the Eastern Pacific and a 30% carryover increase for all WMEC's and WHEC's Coast Guard Wide. In recognition of this and other efforts to improve the quality of life for the crew when deployed in the Eastern Pacific, HAMILTON was awarded the 2006 Captain Niels P. Thomsen Innovation Award in Administration, Training, or Support.

As we celebrate 40 years of meritorious and selfless service to the people of the United States, we will continue to strive to live up to HAMILTON's motto "Semper Primus – Always First!"

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. S. Lee, Capt, USCG". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CAPT Jeffrey S. Lee  
Commanding Officer  
USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC-715)